

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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HINCHEY RECEIVES WILDERNESS CHAMPION AWARD

WASHINGTON - The Utah Wilderness Coalition on Tuesday night presented U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) with its first ever Utah Wilderness Champion Award. Hinchey was honored for his efforts to protect federal public lands in Utah.

"I am deeply touched by this honor," said Hinchey. "The Utah Wilderness Coalition is made up of many excellent organizations and I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work side by side with these fine people since I was first elected to Congress."

For the past five Congresses, Hinchey has been the primary House sponsor of America's Redrock Wilderness Act, which would protect more than nine million acres of federal public lands in Utah by admitting them into the National Wilderness Preservation System. These lands are world renowned for their spectacular beauty, with deep, narrow redrock canyons, fantastic sandstone arches, tremendous open vistas, and wild rivers. They are home to at least two-dozen endangered or sensitive wildlife species and protect some of the richest concentrations of prehistoric ruins in the world. Oil and gas development, mining, illegal road construction, and off-road vehicle abuse threaten the wildlands.

"Congressman Hinchey has inspired thousands of citizens to work for passage of this vital legislation," said Hansjorg Wyss, Chairman of the Board of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. "He has also successfully defended Utah wilderness lands from ill-conceived proposals that would leave them vulnerable to industrial development or to needless destruction from inappropriate use of the land. Maurice rises above everyday Washington politics. He is one of the few real statesmen in Congress."

The award was presented at a reception in Washington.

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